

Species 3, a solvent outlet tube connected to a solvent inlet tube at a right angle;

Species 4, a solvent outlet tube connected to a solvent inlet tube at an obtuse angle; and

Species 5, a solvent outlet tube connected to a solvent inlet tube by a connecting part having a diameter that is larger than the diameters of the diameters of the solvent inlet and outlet tubes.

For the purpose of further examination of the present application, Applicants elect with traverse Species 5, a solvent outlet tube connected to a solvent inlet tube by a connecting part having a diameter that is larger than the diameters of the diameters of the solvent inlet and outlet tubes.

Claims 2, 8-13, and 16-18 are directed to the elected species. As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, at least claims 2, 8-13, and 16-18 are generic.

Applicants vigorously traverse the requirement for election of species herein. All of the species of this invention, identified by the Examiner as 1-5, should be grouped together as a single invention. All of them work in essentially the same way as one another to improve sensitivity in detecting an intended substance,

by placing a diffusion-promoting device just before the separation column of a high performance liquid chromatographic apparatus having a low flow velocity gradient. The invention is based upon this generic concept -- it is not dependent upon the specific means for achieving the desired result that the Examiner now characterizes as separate species of the invention. **Moreover, the Examiner has already examined all five species of the invention!** Accordingly, withdrawal of the requirement for election of species and allowance of the present generic claims is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

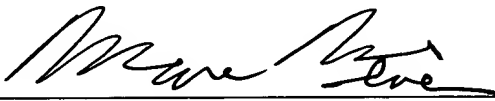
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

Appl. No. 09/831,496


required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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